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SENATE RESOLUTION 206
By Ford J

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Florence Simons
Currin on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Florence Simons Currin will celebrate her 100th birthday on May 28, 2002, an occasion that will be commemorated with great joy in remembering the past, giving thanks for the present, and anticipating the future; and

WHEREAS, a native of Memphis, Mrs. Currin is a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to her community and this State; and

WHEREAS, she is the beloved daughter of the late Hattie Mae and Harry Simons; growing up, she enjoyed the love and companionship of her four sisters: Lucille, who is deceased; Harry Mae; Evelyn, who is deceased; and Natlyn, who is deceased; and

WHEREAS, in 1909, Florence Simons Currin became ill with typhoid fever and was confined for one year; during her illness, her mother taught her to play the piano and assisted her in her academic studies; and

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WHEREAS, Mrs. Currin was a highly-regarded student at Grant School and Kortrecht Intermediate School; and

WHEREAS, a distinguished graduate of LeMoyne Normal Institute, she was selected to play two piano pieces at her graduation ceremony in 1920; and

WHEREAS, Florence Simons Currin attended Hampton University in Virginia before returning to Tennessee and beginning her teaching career at Capleville Elementary School in 1920; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Currin accepted a teaching position in 1921, with the Somerville School; and

WHEREAS, in 1922, she married her sweetheart, Jacob R. Currin, who sadly passed away in 1970; the Currins were blessed with ten wonderful children: Clarence, who is deceased; Jacob, Jr., who is deceased; John; Florence, who is deceased; Grace; Cynthia; Christine; Charles, who is deceased; Adam; and David Currin; and

WHEREAS, a devoted wife and mother, Florence Simons Currin has made her home a haven of joy and beauty; when her children were young, she assisted them with all aspects of their education in addition to teaching them how to play the piano; and

WHEREAS, between 1923 and 1946, Mrs. Currin became the proud aunt of Clyde Thompson, Helen Thompson, Harry Thompson, William Thompson, Everett Thompson, Robert Johnson, Jr., Paul Thompson, Joyce McAnulty, Fredrick Thompson, Ann Thompson, Teresa Thompson, and Simone McAnulty; a beloved aunt, she is affectionately known as “Dar”; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, she was blessed with the birth of her first grandchild and the subsequent years have brought the joyous births of thirteen more beautiful grandchildren; twenty-two great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild; she is the proud grandmother of: Joye Cerise, Jesse Roland, Deborah Camilla, Carl Everett, Cheryl Cerise, David Russell, Terry Lee, Sharon Camilla, Babbette, Cecil Gene, Gina Denise, Russell, John Adam, and Adeline; and

WHEREAS, a talented author, Florence Simons Currin, at first, began writing short stories only as a hobby; she published her first short story in 1952 and a short article in *Reader's Digest* in 1953; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, Mrs. Currin moved to Chicago, Illinois, where she worked as a child care provider; and

WHEREAS, she accepted a position as a Clerk with the United States Treasury Department in 1960; during her five years of service with the U.S. Treasury Department, she earned the respect of her peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of her work; and

WHEREAS, committed to lifelong learning, Florence Simons Currin attended typing and hat-making classes at Jones Commercial High School in 1964; and

WHEREAS, due to health problems, Mrs. Currin retired from the U.S. Treasury Department and returned to Memphis to recuperate in 1965; and

WHEREAS, a conscientious member of her community, she has dedicated her time and energies to the betterment of her fellow citizens, serving in numerous community organizations and programs; since 1970, she has been active with the Gaston Senior Citizens and has generously participated in volunteer work with the senior citizens of the Memphis area; and

WHEREAS, completing hundreds of hours of volunteer work, Florence Simons Currin has been a valued member of Unity of Memphis, Tennessee Federation of Colored Women, LeMoyne-Owen Alumni Association, WLOK Community Involvement Board, MIFA Volunteers, Lovely Ladies Social Club, Merry Circle, National Association of Retired Federal Employees, National Council of Senior Citizens, Lewis Center Senior Citizens, American Association of Retired Persons, YWCA, NAACP, Christian Ladies, and Unity Welfare Committee; and

WHEREAS, an esteemed citizen of Memphis, Mrs. Currin was awarded the RSVP Service Award for community work as a senior volunteer in 1976; recognized by Volunteers in Action for outstanding and significant contributions to Memphis and Shelby County through volunteer service in 1978; honored by WLOK Radio as Citizen of the Week in 1978; recognized

by Senior Citizens Services, Inc. for enriching the lives of elderly citizens in 1978; honored as Mother of the Year with the Margaret Bland-McKissick Award in 1988; and awarded Mother of the Year by the Unity Center of Memphis in 1991; and

WHEREAS, she has astutely served as the delegate to The National Council on Aging in Washington D.C., where she was interviewed on national television, as well as a delegate for the National Council on Aging in Chicago; she has also appeared in a Citizens in Action Promo for a local Memphis television station; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Florence Simons Currin was honored by LeMoyne Owen-College on the 70th Anniversary of her graduating class and, in 2001, was featured in *The Beacon*, a LeMoyne-Owen College publication, for being one of four generations of LeMoyne-Owen College graduates; and

WHEREAS, a woman of great faith, Mrs. Currin was raised in the Collins Chapel Church and is an active member of the Metropolitan Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, she was honored by the Miles Memorial CME Church in Washington, D.C., along with her sisters, Harry Mae Simons and Evelyn McAnulty, as granddaughters of the church's founding minister and first pastor, Reverend William Simons; and

WHEREAS, throughout her life, Florence Simons Currin has distinguished herself as a woman of the utmost integrity, character, and faith; a wonderful human being, she is an inspiration to all who know her; and

WHEREAS, friends and family will gather on May 25, 2002, at the Metropolitan Baptist Church to celebrate the centennial birthday of this most remarkable woman; and

WHEREAS, it is the pleasure of this General Assembly at the tenth decade of Mrs. Currin's life to honor her benevolent and steadfast service to her family, community, and this great State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and congratulate Florence Simons Currin on the celebration of her 100th birthday, recognize her life of gracious service and goodwill, and extend to her our best wishes for much continued happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.